

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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P. BRADEN, Tom
(orig under Colby)

The Editor of "Outlook"
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

When Mr. Braden's recent article, "CIA: Power and Arrogance," appeared in Saturday Review, I was concerned about its basic line, but I was not roused to reply, as I have become somewhat inured to adverse comment. Its reprinting in The Washington Post, however, suggests that through repetition it might acquire more cachet, to the extent that I feel I must challenge its accuracy and its wisdom.

In it, Mr. Braden talks of a CIA he may have known some ten and twenty years ago. I have news for him. Things have changed. CIA is no longer a sacred establishment of insiders "different" from outsiders in commitment and in freedom from the rules that bind ordinary men. It may have some of the restraints of American bureaucracy, and its personnel may live in Fairfax rather than Georgetown, but I think we have a stronger intelligence structure today, rather than one whose "power is gone," whose "arrogance has turned to fear," and which "is divided and torn."

Indeed, we now have a modern intelligence system. Its engineers and its scientists produce marvels of technology which deliver to our nation information about the world of which Mr. Braden could not have dreamed in his time. Its research and analysis staffs stand for independent and objective assessments, however much policy-makers might wish more pleasing ones, or whatever the reflection on departmental budgets and program proposals. Our clandestine operations are perhaps less exhilarating but are more productive than Mr. Braden's and my parachuting days together. The unfettered "power" which produced the "arrogance" he recalls has been replaced by intensive supervision and public as well as closed-door accountability.

Mr. Braden cites our box score in the usual partial way, only the strikes, not the hits. I note, for example, that he omits his own contribution to preventing Communist monopoly of the cause of "peace"